

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A portable device comprising:

a housing having a first surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in a loudspeaker mode and a second surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in ~~the~~ an earpiece mode; and

an electro-acoustic transducer located within the housing for converting an electrical signal input to the transducer into an acoustic signal, the transducer being operable to output acoustic signals when in the loudspeaker mode or the earpiece mode, the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the loudspeaker mode being less attenuated than the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode.

2. (Previously Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein an attenuator is provided between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of the acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, further comprising an amplifier for amplifying the electrical signal prior to inputting to the transducer and a gain control for controlling the gain of the amplifier, the gain control being operable to increase the gain of the amplifier when the device is to operate in a the loudspeaker mode relative to the gain of the amplifier when the device is in an the earpiece mode.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a gain control and associated amplifier which amplifies the electrical signal;
a first housing and a second housing coupled together in a moveable manner;
and

a detector for detecting the position of one housing relative to the other and for operating the gain control in accordance with the position to control gain of the amplifier to control a level of the electrical signal ~~switch accordingly.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~4~~3, wherein the difference in gain between the two modes is around 30 dB.

6. (Previously Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the device is a portable communications device.

7. (Currently Amended) A portable telecommunications device comprising:

a housing having a first surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in a hands-free mode and a second surface with an outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode; and

an electro-acoustic transducer located within the housing for converting an electrical signal input to the transducer into an acoustic signal, the transducer being operable to output acoustic signals when in the hands-free mode or in the earpiece mode, the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the hands-free mode being less attenuated than the audio path between the transducer and the outlet for the egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode.

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2, further comprising an amplifier for amplifying the electrical signal prior to inputting to the transducer and a gain control for controlling the gain of the amplifier, the gain control being operable to increase the gain of the amplifier when the device is to operate in a the loudspeaker mode relative to the gain of the amplifier when the device is in an the earpiece mode.

9. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a gain control and associated amplifier which amplifies the electrical signal:

a first housing and a second housing coupled together in a moveable manner; and

a detector for detecting the position of one housing relative to the other and for operating the gain control switch accordingly in accordance with the position to control gain of the amplifier to control a level of the electrical signal.

10. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 3, further comprising:

a gain control and associated amplifier which amplifies the electrical signal;

a first housing and a second housing coupled together in a moveable manner; and

a detector for detecting the position of one housing relative to the other and for operating the gain control switch accordingly in accordance with the position to control gain of the amplifier to control a level of the electrical signal.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 24, wherein the difference in gain between the two modes is around 30 dB.

12. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 39, wherein the difference in gain between the two modes is around 30 dB.

13. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 410, wherein the difference in gain between the two modes is around 30 dB.

14. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein the device is a portable communications device.

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the device is a portable communications device.

16. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4, wherein the device is a portable communications device.

17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 5, wherein the device is a portable communications device.

18. (New) A portable device comprising:

a housing having a first surface with a first outlet for egress of an acoustic signal when in a loudspeaker mode and a second surface with a second outlet for egress of an acoustic signal when in the earpiece mode;

an electro-acoustic transducer located within the housing for converting an electrical signal input to the transducer into an acoustic signal;

a first audio path defined within the housing between the transducer and the first outlet for the egress of the acoustic signal;

a second audio path defined within the housing between the transducer and the second outlet for the egress of the acoustic signal; and

attenuation means within the second audio path for attenuating the acoustic signal, whereby the acoustic signal egressing from the first outlet has an amplitude that is greater than an amplitude of the acoustic signal egressing from the second outlet.